

settlement, of course, was at Heber City, but there were also two small settlements along the Snake Creek, a number of families at Center Creek, some at Charleston, some in Round Valley or Wallsburg, a small cluster of houses at the Sessions spring and a few at a sheep ranch of Melvin Ross, afterwards known as Hailstone's Ranch, about eight miles north of Heber.

The first county road was established on March 3, 1862, and commenced at the Provo River below Manning's (southwest of the town of Charleston) and ran in a northerly direction following the old immigrant trail through the valley, passing by Melvin Ross' ranch and terminating at the northern boundary of the county known then as the Ross Summit.

Another county road was established April 26, 1862 and ran between Heber City and Center Creek and on to a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon.

Four school districts were also designated in April, 1862. They were district No. 1 to include Heber City; No. 2 at the Center Creek settlement; No. 3, the lower settlement on Snake Creek and No. 4 the upper Snake Creek settlement.

The first valuation of property for the county took place in 1862, and according to the report of John Harvey, assessor and collector, the property value in the valley was \$48,350.

Spring came late in 1862 and it was May 4 before any plowing could be done in the valley. The Church leaders who went to Salt Lake City for general conference sessions in April had to travel on snowshoes to get through the more than four feet of snow still on the ground.

Early in 1862 John H. Van Wagoner finished building a gristmill at Snake Creek's lower settlement. Even though there was no way to separate the smut from the wheat and some of the flour made was very dark, the people were still glad for this added improvement. At times that year the river was so high people couldn't get across to the mill. However, Henry McMullin, a ship builder from Maine, built a boat and the grist was taken back and forth on the boat. It was this same Mr. McMullin that built the first sawmill in the valley. It was owned by William M. Wall and James Adams and located in Center Creek Canyon.

Until the sawmill was built, people had used hand-prepared timber for all their furniture and other needs. Now with cut lumber available the rough furniture was quickly discarded.

Many of the people were able to obtain good wagons from the soldiers in Johnston's Army. The army had camped near Utah Lake until the outbreak of the Civil War in the East. They were summoned to return to the Northern Army's camps and so they sold some of their wagons and their supplies very cheaply rather than carry them back east. Many in Wasatch County obtained the wagons as the troops passed through the valley on their eastern trip.

Community life was well developed by 1862 and the seeds of prosperity and growth planted so well by the early settlers in 1859 were already beginning to bear fruit. Living was difficult, but in overcoming privation and hardship these pioneers found a peace and contentment unequalled even in the modern world of conveniences and super-civilization.

*This is the summit at  
the Peoa Turnoff at the north  
end of Wasatch Co., and  
named for Melvin Ross.  
Also Ross's Hollow, no. of Keetley  
was named after Melvin Ross*

JOSEPH AND PHOEBE  
ELIZABETH BUNNELL CLUFF

Joseph Cluff was one of the first settlers of Center Creek. He was the sixth child of David and Betsey or Elizabeth Hall Cluff born in Willoughby, Geauga County, Ohio, on 11 Jan. 1834. He journeyed with his parents to Kirtland, Nauvoo and finally to

the West and Utah. He came to Utah with Blair, Williams and Company, as a teamster arriving in Salt Lake one month before his parents who came on 4 Oct. 1850. They settled in Provo where Joseph helped his father and brothers. On 28 April 1857 he married Phoebe Elizabeth Bunnell. The small farm which Joseph owned in Provo was not adequate and instead of renting, he moved with his family to settle Center Creek in 1861, where there was plenty of Government land subject to entry. In 1866 when the "Black Hawk War" broke out Brigham Young advised the people to move to larger settlements and they returned to Provo. After the war he and his brother Henry leased a farm north of Heber from Thomas Ross. They left their families in Provo and left for Heber. There was no open road through Provo Canyon and they had to shovel snow from slides to get through, finally arriving at the farm and put in crops early, which paid off. They had many harrowing experiences crossing the swollen river at Charleston. The brothers had a good crop when other crops were destroyed. In 1867 David Cluff Sr. called his boys together to cooperate in the ranch and stock-raising enterprises. They decided to go to Ross' Hollow and Joseph was chosen manager. This place was later called "Cluff's Ranch" and was located where Keetley now is. Joseph was a student of the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and gave lectures in Heber and Kamas on the historical and geographical parts of the Nephite Record. The Cluff's fenced the meadow land and built onto the log house. Father Cluff after 43 years as a shipbuilder in New Hampshire was very good at hewing logs with a broadax. Joseph went to the Eastern States on a mission and upon his return sold his interest in the ranch to William Wallace and Henry, his brothers. He moved to Central, Graham Co., Arizona where he died 4 June 1914.

Joseph's wife Phoebe, a daughter of David Edwin and Sallie Heller Conrad Bunnell, was born 5 July 1841 in Brownstown, Wayne Co., Michigan. Her parents became converts to the Gospel and were baptized in 1840. The family moved to Nauvoo where her father assisted in the erection of the Nauvoo Temple in which they received their endowments. Phoebe was but an infant when the Prophet Joseph Smith was martyred but it affected her life because the family was persecuted along with the other Saints and

they abandoned their home and moved to Iowa. Here the family struggled to get means to join the Saints in the Rocky Mountains. Her father was a house carpenter and helped build up the communities where they lived before and after coming to Utah. They came to Utah on the 6th of Oct. 1852 in the J. C. Snow Company and then went to Provo to live. Phoebe had a lot of faith and was a good wife and mother. She went with her husband and other members of the Cluff family to Arizona where she died 9 Aug. 1914. Joseph and Phoebe were the parents of nine children as follows: 1. Joseph Edwin, born 6 Feb. 1858 in Provo. He married Elizabeth D. Moody 14 May 1884. He died 22 April 1920 at Central, Arizona. 2. David William, born 6 Sept. 1859 in Provo. He married Sarah Elda Mattice. He died 6 April 1917 at Thatcher, Arizona. 3. Joanna E., born 5 Jan. 1862. 4. Alpharetta R., born 25 Sept. 1866. 5. Emma I., born 2 Jan. 1868. 6. Warren Lafayette, born 23 April 1871. 7. Clarissa V., born 10 March 1874. 8. Romania O., born 5 Jan. 1877. 9. Benjamin Franklin, born 29 April 1880 and married Rhoda Isabella Blain 11 Oct. 1905. He died in Central, Arizona 23 July 1935.

Ross' Hollow  
named for  
Melvin Ross

Note:

The general area  
was later called  
Keetley—named for  
Jack Keetley

Ross's Hollow and  
Ross's Summit were  
named for Melvin Ross.

Refs: 1. H&BUM pp 18-19, 1096-7.

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## CENTER CREEK BIOGRAPHIES

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